

Drafted by: EUR/SOV:JVD [unclear] Jr. Cleared: EUR/SOV:WTS [unclear] Jr.
8/31/79 x22073 EUR/NE:RThompson
#125-0161 EUR/JEGoodby
H:TWastan

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September 7, 1979

E-109

Dear Senator Heinz:

Thank you for your inquiry of August 15 concerning the interest of [unclear] in the fate of Aron Wallenberg.

According to Department of State records, Mr. Wallenberg was assigned to the Swedish Mission in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II, and disappeared in January of 1945 following the arrival of Soviet troops in Budapest. In response to repeated inquiries by the Swedish Government, the Soviet Government in February 1957 stated that Mr. Wallenberg had died in a Moscow prison on July 12, 1947. Despite the fact that the Swedish Government has officially raised the issue of Mr. Wallenberg's fate on a number of subsequent occasions, citing the fact that several persons claimed to have seen him alive during the 1950's, the Soviet Government has provided no additional information.

Mr. Wallenberg's half-brother, Mr. Guy Von Dardel, and his half-sister, Mrs. Mina Lagergren have continued to pursue the question of the fate of their half-brother with the Swedish Government and the Red Cross. Since the Swedish Government and the Red Cross are thoroughly familiar with Mr. Wallenberg's case, we believe they are in the best position to make inquiries to the Soviet authorities in the event that further representations would be believed helpful. From time to time the Swedish Government has asked the U.S. Government to attempt to verify information or otherwise to assist in their efforts to clarify the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. We have done our best to provide such information as we have in response to such requests, and will continue to do so.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 10/02 Sincerely,

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Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence returned

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The Honorable

H. John Heinz III,

United States Senate.

Envelope addressed to: 9456 Federal Bldg, 600 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106